

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for exchanging information within a partnership using a web-based system including a server coupled to a centralized database of business data relating to the partnership and at least one client system, the partnership having an ownership interest in an energy producing asset including at least one of an oil producing asset and a natural gas producing asset, the server including a plurality of analytical tools, said method comprising:

providing forms stored within the server as web pages for the insertion of updated partnership business data and causing the forms to be displayed on a client system;

uploading forms that include updated partnership business data intended for use by other authorized users to the server, wherein the updated partnership business data is stored within the database, the partnership business data including information describing the energy producing asset;

formatting the partnership business data uploaded using web pages stored within the server;

downloading the web pages to authorized users requesting the updated partnership business data;

accessing the plurality of analytical tools including an authorization for expenditure tool and a glance hedge partnership tool, wherein the authorization for expenditure tool enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within the partnership including a capital expenditure relating to the energy producing asset, and wherein the glance hedge partnership tool enables an authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership [[from]] with respect to the energy producing asset based on the partnership business data stored within the database and data relating to the capital expenditure; and

tracking the proposed expenditure request using the authorization for expenditure tool through an approval process within the partnership.

2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the authorization for expenditure (AFE) tool to facilitate at least one of a creation of a request packet by a general partner including a presentation of information to assist a limited partner in making a decision with respect to the proposed expenditure request, an inclusion of text and graphic image files relevant to the proposed expenditure request, a general partner approval process, a submission of the proposed expenditure request to a limited partner, a limited partner review of technical and economic data, an engineering consultant review of technical and economic data, a generation of appropriate internal approval forms, a limited partner approval process, and tracking of technical and economic performance metrics.

3. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of tracking the proposed expenditure request further comprises the step of using a status map to display on a graphical user interface the proposed expenditure request's current step in an approval process including timestamps indicating an amount of time spent at each step, creating an owner of the request and teams, and an ability to track performance of the request.

4. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools to record purchases and sales of assets associated with the partnership.

5. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of tracking the proposed expenditure request further comprises the step of displaying at least one of engineering data and economics data to be reviewed by an authorized user as part of the approval process.

6. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools including a file transfer tool to perform at least one of download user files from the server to the client system, and upload partnership reports from the client system to the server.

7. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the plurality

of analytical tools including at least one of a forecast builder tool and a hedge production forecast tool.

8. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 7 wherein the database stores partnership business data for a plurality of partnerships, and wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the steps of:

selecting a partnership from the plurality of partnerships stored within the database;

using the forecast builder tool to display current forecasts for the selected partnership;
and

enabling a user to create new customized forecasts for the selected partnership.

9. (original) A method according to Claim 7 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of using the hedge production forecast tool to create customized forecasts for hedging analysis purposes.

10. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of a bank management tool, a display hedge contracts tool, a FASB (Financial Accounting Standards Board) 133 evaluation model, [[.]] a glance hedge portfolio tool, a hedge analysis tool, a hedge contract settle tool, a hedge contracts tool, a hedge portfolio setup tool, a hedge production forecast tool, a hedging futures price tool, and a hub management tool.

11. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 10 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the display hedge contracts tool to enable a user to view and modify data relating to contracts entered into between banks and the partnership.

12. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 10 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the FASB 133 evaluation model to ensure that derivative instruments are properly recorded in a balance sheet of the partnership.

13. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 10 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the glance hedge partnership tool to provide an authorized user with information relating to the partnership's hedge position in a specific location including at least one of hedge breakage gains and losses a gas hedges data grid and a forward gas curve data grid, wherein the glance hedge partnership tool includes at least one of a futures curve date list that enables the authorized user to select a date that a future price for at least one of oil and gas is to be determined, a discount percent data field that enables the authorized user to specify a discount percentage value that is used to determine a hedge breakage gain or loss, and a forecast list that enables the authorized user to select an engineering forecast to use in valuing and displaying the hedge position.

14. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 10 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the glance hedge portfolio tool to summarize data from a plurality of partnerships.

15. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 10 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the hedge analysis tool to enable an authorized user to analyze hedge data.

16. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 10 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the hedging futures price tool that stores daily quotes for oil and gas futures contracts.

17. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of an asset play tool, assumptions, a flip payout, a setup tool, a mail tool, a partner setup tool, a user entered data tool, a user information tool, and a user maintenance tool.

18. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of a partner list, a field list, and at least one of a well and lease list.

19. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools including a net income forecasting model to forecast net income for a specific partnership.

20. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of a basis differential tool, a discount rates tool, an escalation factors tool, a hedging futures price tool, and a historical average price tool.

21. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools to generate a plurality of reports including at least one of an actual production export report, an engineering report, an enhancements report, a glance accounting report, a glance hedge partnership report, a glance hedge portfolio report, a glance production report, a hedge portfolio set-up report, a rate time report, a variance report-monthly report, and a variance report-quarterly report.

22. (original) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising establishing a communication link between the client system and the server, wherein the communication link includes at least one of a wide area network, a local area network, an intranet, and the Internet.

23. (currently amended) A web-based system for exchanging information within a partnership having an ownership interest in an energy producing asset including at least one of an oil producing asset and a natural gas producing asset, said system comprising:

at least one client system comprising a browser;

a database for storing business data relating to the partnership; and

a server comprising a plurality of analytical tools, said server configured to be coupled to said client system and said database, said server further configured to:

provide forms stored within said server as input web pages for the insertion of updated partnership business data,

display the input web pages on said client system,

upload forms including updated partnership business data intended for use by other authorized users to said server wherein the updated partnership business data is stored within said database, the partnership business data including information describing the energy producing asset.

format the partnership business data uploaded using output web pages stored within said server,

download the output web pages to authorized users requesting the updated partnership business data,

display on said client system the output web pages,

access the plurality of analytical tools including an authorization for expenditure tool to enable an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within the partnership including a capital expenditure relating to the energy producing asset, and a glance hedge partnership tool to enable an authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership [[from]] with respect to the energy producing asset based on the partnership business data stored within the database and data relating to the capital expenditure, and

track the proposed expenditure request using the authorization for expenditure tool through an approval process within the partnership.

24. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to access the authorization for expenditure (AFE) tool to at least one of create a request packet by a general partner including a presentation of information to assist a limited partner in making a decision with respect to the proposed expenditure request, receive text and graphic image files relevant to the proposed expenditure request, receive a general partner approval process, submit the proposed expenditure request to a limited partner, enable a limited partner review of technical and economic data, enable an engineering consultant review of technical and economic data, generate appropriate internal approval forms, receive a limited partner approval process, and track technical and economic performance metrics.

25. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to generate a status map to display on a graphical user interface the

proposed expenditure request's current step in an approval process including timestamps indicating an amount of time spent at each step, create an owner of the request and teams, and track performance of the request.

26. (original) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to record purchases and sales of assets associated with the partnership.

27. (original) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to display at least one of engineering data and economics data to be reviewed by an authorized user as part of the approval process.

28. (original) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to access the plurality of analytical tools including a file transfer tool to perform at least one of download user files to the client system, and upload partnership reports from the client system.

29. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to access the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of a forecast builder tool and a hedge production forecast tool.

30. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 29 wherein said server further configured to use the forecast builder tool to display current forecasts for a partnership, and enable a user to create new customized forecasts for the partnership.

31. (original) A system according to Claim 29 wherein said server further configured to use the hedge production forecast tool to create customized forecasts for hedging analysis purposes.

32. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to access the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of a bank management tool, a display hedge contracts tool, a FASB (Financial Accounting Standards Board) 133 evaluation model, a glance hedge portfolio tool, a hedge analysis tool, a hedge contract settle tool, a hedge contracts tool, a hedge portfolio setup tool, a hedge production forecast tool, a hedging futures price tool, and a hub management tool.

33. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server further configured to access the display hedge contracts tool to enable a user to view and modify data relating to contracts entered into between banks and the partnership.

34. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server further configured to access the FASB 133 evaluation model to ensure that derivative instruments are properly recorded in a balance sheet of the partnership.

35. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server further configured to access the glance hedge partnership tool to provide an authorized user with information relating to the partnership's hedge position in a specific location including at least one of ~~hedge breakage gains and losses~~ a gas hedges data grid and a forward gas curve data grid, wherein the glance hedge partnership tool includes at least one of a futures curve date list that enables the authorized user to select a date that a future price for at least one of oil and gas is to be determined, a discount percent data field that enables the authorized user to specify a discount percentage value that is used to determine a hedge breakage gain or loss, and a forecast list that enables the authorized user to select an engineering forecast to use in valuing and displaying the hedge position.

36. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server further configured to access the glance hedge portfolio tool to summarize data from a plurality of partnerships.

37. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server further configured to access the hedge analysis tool to enable an authorized user to analyze hedge data.

38. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server further configured to access the hedging futures price tool for storing daily quotes for oil and gas futures contracts.

39. (original) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to access the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of an asset play tool, assumptions, a flip payout, a setup tool, a mail tool, a partner setup tool, a user entered data tool, a user information tool, and a user maintenance tool.

40. (original) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to display a partner list, a field list, and at least one of a well and lease list.

41. (original) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to access the plurality of analytical tools including a net income forecasting model for forecasting net income for a specific partnership.

42. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to access the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of a basis differential tool, a discount rates tool, an escalation factors tool, a hedging futures price tool, and a historical average price tool.

43. (original) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said server further configured to generate a plurality of reports including at least one of an actual production export report, an engineering report, an enhancements report, a glance accounting report, a glance hedge partnership report, a glance hedge portfolio report, a glance production report, a hedge portfolio set-up report, a rate time report, a variance report-monthly report, and a variance report-quarterly report.

44. (original) A system according to Claim 23 wherein said client system and said server are coupled via a network, wherein said network is one of a wide area network, a local area network, an intranet, and the Internet.

45. (original) A system according to Claim 23 wherein the updated partnership business data includes oil and gas exploration data, wherein at least one of the forms includes an authorization for expenditure form relating to oil and gas exploration, and wherein said server is further configured to:

enable an authorized user to access an information page via the at least one client system;

display on the information page a risk factor table associated with the partnership's oil and gas exploration; and

prompt an authorized user through the at least one authorization for expenditure web page displayed on the client system to approve or disapprove a proposed expenditure within the partnership based on the risk factor table.

46. (original) A system according to Claim 45 wherein the risk factor table charts wells that are proved, developed and producing (PDP); proved, developed, and non-producing (PDNP); and proved and undeveloped (PUD) against at least one of reserves, lease operating expenses and capital expenditures (CAPEX).

47. (currently amended) A method for exchanging information within a partnership involved in oil and gas exploration using a web-based system including a server coupled to a centralized database of business data relating to the partnership and at least one client system, the partnership having an ownership interest in an energy producing asset including at least one of an oil producing asset and a natural gas producing asset, the server including a plurality of analytical tools, said method comprising:

providing forms stored within the server as web pages for the insertion of updated partnership business data including oil and gas exploration data;

uploading forms that include updated partnership business data intended for use by other authorized users to the server, wherein the updated partnership business data is stored within the database, the partnership business data including information describing the energy producing asset;

enabling an authorized user to access an information page via the at least one client system;

prompting an authorized user from the information page to access at least one of the plurality of analytical tools including an authorization for expenditure tool and a glance hedge partnership tool, wherein the authorization for expenditure tool enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within the partnership including a capital expenditure relating to the energy producing asset, and wherein the glance hedge partnership tool enables an authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership [[from]] with respect to the energy producing asset based on the partnership business data stored within the database and data relating to the capital expenditure; and

tracking the proposed expenditure request using the authorization for expenditure tool through an approval process within the partnership.

48. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 47 wherein the proposed expenditure request relates to oil and gas exploration, and wherein the method further comprises displaying on the information page a risk factor table that charts oil and gas wells that are proved, developed and producing (PDP); proved, developed, and non-producing (PDNP); and proved and undeveloped (PUD) against at least one of reserves, lease operating expenses and capital expenditures (CAPEX).

49. (original) A method according to Claim 47 wherein said step of prompting an authorized user from the information page to access at least one of the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the authorization for expenditure (AFE) tool to facilitate at least one of a creation of a request packet by a general partner including a presentation of information to assist a limited partner in making a decision with respect to the proposed expenditure request, an inclusion of text and graphic image files relevant to the proposed expenditure request, a general partner approval process, a submission of the proposed expenditure request to a limited partner, a limited partner review of technical and economic data, an engineering consultant review of technical and economic data, a generation of appropriate internal approval forms, a limited partner approval process, and tracking of technical and economic performance metrics.

50. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 47 wherein said step of tracking the proposed expenditure request further comprises the step of using a status map to display on a graphical user interface the proposed expenditure request's current step in an approval process including timestamps indicating an amount of time spent at each step, creating an owner of the request and teams, and an ability to track performance of the request.

51. (original) A method according to Claim 47 wherein said step of prompting an authorized user from the information page to access at least one of the plurality of analytical tools further comprises the step of accessing the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of the following a file transfer tool, a forecasting tool, a hedging tool, input tools, a listings tool, a models tool, a policy 6.0 tool, a pricing tool, and a reports tool.

52. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium and executable by a processor for exchanging information within a partnership having an ownership interest in an energy producing asset including at least one of an oil

producing asset and a natural gas producing asset, said program comprising at least one code segment that receives business data relating to the partnership and then:

maintains a database by adding, deleting and updating business data;

provides forms as web pages for the insertion of updated partnership business data and causing the forms to be displayed on a client system, the partnership business data including information describing the energy producing asset;

downloads the web pages to authorized users requesting the updated partnership business data;

accesses the plurality of analytical tools including an authorization for expenditure tool to enable an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within the partnership including a capital expenditure relating to the energy producing asset, and a glance hedge partnership tool to enable an authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership [[from]] with respect to the energy producing asset based on the partnership business data stored within the database and data relating to the capital expenditure; and

tracks the proposed expenditure request using the authorization for expenditure tool through an approval process within the partnership.

53. (previously presented) A computer program in accordance with Claim 52 further comprising at least one code segment that:

enables a general partner to create a request packet to assist a limited partner in making a decision with respect to the proposed expenditure request;

enables a user to include text and graphic image files relevant to the proposed expenditure request;

provides a general partner approval process;

submits the proposed expenditure request to a limited partner;

provides a limited partner approval process; and

enables a user to track the technical and economic performance metrics.

54. (previously presented) A computer program in accordance with Claim 52 further comprising at least one code segment that generates a status map to display on a graphical user interface the proposed expenditure request's current step in an approval process including timestamps indicating an amount of time spent at each step.

55. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 52 further comprising at least one code segment that displays at least one of engineering data and economics data to be reviewed by an authorized user as part of the approval process.

56. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 52 further comprising at least one code segment that accesses the plurality of analytical tools including a file transfer tool to perform at least one of download user files from the server to the client system, and upload partnership reports from the client system to the server.

57. (previously presented) A computer program in accordance with Claim 52 further comprising at least one code segment that accesses the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of a forecast builder tool and a hedge production forecast tool.

58. (previously presented) A computer program in accordance with Claim 52 further comprising at least one code segment that accesses the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of a bank management tool, a display hedge contracts tool, a FASB (Financial Accounting Standards Board) 133 evaluation model, a glance hedge portfolio tool, a hedge analysis tool, a hedge contract settle tool, a hedge contracts tool, a hedge portfolio setup tool, a hedge production forecast tool, a hedging futures price tool, and a hub management tool.

59. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 52 further comprising at least one code segment that accesses the plurality of analytical tools including at least one of a partner list, a field list, and at least one of a well and lease list.

60. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 52 further comprising at least one code segment that accesses the plurality of analytical tools including a net income forecasting model to forecast net income for a specific partnership.

61. (previously presented) A computer program in accordance with Claim 52 further comprising at least one code segment that accesses the plurality of analytical tools including

at least one of a basis differential tool, a discount rates tool, an escalation factors tool, a hedging futures price tool, and a historical average price tool.